

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 07706 011343Z

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 DHA-02 VO-03 SCA-01 IO-10 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8597

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 7706

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, US, BL

SUBJECT: RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE AND CAMBODIAN
REFUGEES FROM US TO LATIN AMERICA

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS I CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER OCTOBER 31 TO FOLLOW UP ON BOLIVIA'S EARLIER INDICATION OF ITS WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER ACCEPTING VIETNAMESE REFUGEES. WHILE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID HE WOULD RAISE MATTER WITH PRESIDENT BANZER AND ARRANGE FOR THE EMBASSY TO HAVE A MORE SUBSTANTIVE CONVERSATION WITH EITHER THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE OR COORDINATION, HE SAID THAT BOLIVIA'S RESOURCES ARE SO LIMITED THAT A SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT PROGRAM WOULD BE REQUIRED TO PROPERLY LOCATE REFUGEES. HE INDICATED THAT GOVERNMENT STILL INTERESTED IN HAVING REFUGEES FOR AGRICULTURAL AREAS WHO ARE KNOWLEDGEABLE AND WILLING TO WORK BUT THAT THE INFRASTRUCTURE AVAILABLE IN THE AREAS WHERE LAND COULD BE PROVIDED IS ALMOST NONEXISTENT.

2. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN IN TOUCH WITH LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE OF ICEM. HE PROPOSED THAT WE CONSIDER HAVING JOINT MEETING WITH COORDINATION OFFICIALS BUT EXPRESSES SKEPTICISM THAT BOLIVIA WILL BE ABLE TO RESPOND APPROPRIATELY UNLESS IT CLEAR THAT SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR EACH CASE.

3. WE WILL FOLLOW UP AND REPORT FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS BUT IN VIEW OF STATEMENT IN REFTEL THAT IATF PREPARED TO GRANT UP TO ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS PER PERSON, WE DOUBT THAT SIGNIFICANT
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RESETTLEMENT IN AGRICULTURAL AREAS CAN TAKE PLACE HERE. IT

STILL MAY BE THOUGH THAT, DEPENDING UPON POSSIBLE SKILLS, A FEW
VIETNAMESE MIGHT BE RESETTLED IN URBAN AREAS. IF IT IS NOT
TOO DIFFICULT, PERHAPS IATF COULD MAKE AVAILABLE TO US A
LIST OF POSSIBLE SKILLS AVAILABLE AMONG REMAINING REFUGEES.
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